

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 5, 7 and 16 have been canceled, and claims 1, 3, 12, 14-15, 24-25 and 50 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-12, 14-15, 17-25, 27, 28, 30-47 and 50 are pending and under consideration.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are acknowledged. However, it is respectfully submitted that at least due to the present claim amendments, the rejections are overcome.

Claims 1, 3-12, 14-25, 27, 28, 30-47 and 50 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2 and 8-15 of co-pending Application No. 10/687,673. Insofar as the rejection is provisional, and the claims have been amended herein, a terminal disclaimer will not be filed at this time.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

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If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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